



The first CO of NH Beaufort was instrumental in establishing no fewer than four Naval Hospitals in his 36-year career.

Leslie Bert Marshall was born in Paragould Arkansas in 1893 and completed medical school in Memphis (only 60 miles from his boyhood home). At 24 he was commissioned a LTJG in the Medical Corps. He was promoted to Captain in 1941 and retired in 1953.

In World War I he served in the Atlantic aboard the battleship USS NEVADA (BB-36), a ship that years later became famous for being the only battleship to get underway during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (she was nonetheless hit by one torpedo and at least six bombs, forcing the crew to beach her). In WWI Marshall also served aboard the USS NOKOMIS (SP-609), a civilian yacht the Navy purchased and transformed into a shipping patrol craft armed with 3-inch guns.

In that era he had shore duty at the USN Port Offices in Le Havre and St. Nazaire, France, and at Navy Base Hospital #5 in Brest, France. In 1919 he returned to the US for duty at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

During the period 1920-1922 he was again at sea, first aboard the auxiliary cruiser and troop transport USS PANTHER (AD-6), later in the Clemson class destroyer USS CHANDLER (DD-206), both vessels of the Asiatic Fleet.

From early 1923 to 1926, he served as Medical Officer at the USN Recruiting Station in Minneapolis, Minnesota, then transferred to the hospital ship USS RELIEF (AH-1) for two years of sea duty.

He later served at NH San Diego, then aboard the Destroyer Tender USS BLACK HAWK (AD-9) and the cargo ship USS HOUSTON (AK-1), followed by two years at NH Canacao in the Philippine Islands.

From January of 1935 to February of 1939, he served at NH Mare Island, California (Mare Island, established in 1854, was the first US Navy installation on the West Coast). He then served with the U.S. Marine Corps as Medical Officer with the American Embassy Guard, Peiping, China. Returning stateside in December 1940, he served briefly at NH Brooklyn; Naval Training Station, NOB, Norfolk, Virginia; the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; and the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D. C.

Shortly before the United States entered World War II, he reported as a Special Naval Observer to the American Embassy in London, England (September 1941), and served in that capacity until February 1942.

For four months he had duty at NH Corona, California (commissioned the day after Pearl Harbor, NH Corona had been a resort hotel before the Navy turned it into a hospital), after which

he was sent to the newly established Naval Air Station Norman, Oklahoma, to fit out the NH there.

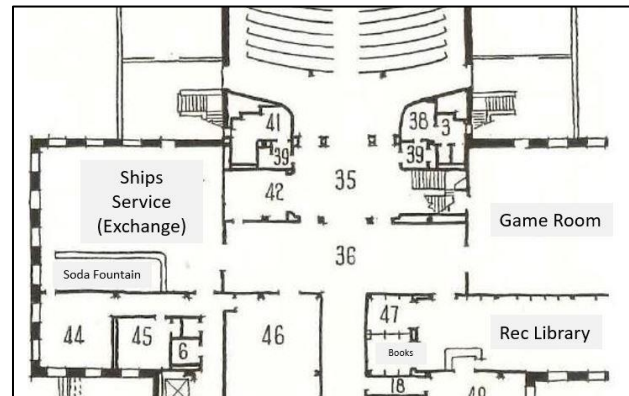
He served as Medical Officer, Fifteenth Naval District, Balboa, Canal Zone, and while there served additionally as CO of the Naval Medical Supply Depot also located there.

In January of 1945 he reported to Houston, Texas, for duty in connection with the establishment of the Naval Hospital, and served as pre-commissioning CO there until June 1946. During that period he was also in command of NH Camp Wallace, Texas. NH Houston was the first Naval Hospital to be commissioned after WWII.

He next established and commanded Naval Medical Center Guam.

In March 1947 he served four months as District Medical Officer at the Seventh Naval District Headquarters, Jacksonville, Florida, and had brief duty as Assistant to the Commandant, Medical Reserve Program, Seventh Naval District.

In 1947 he began serving as the last CO of NH Parris Island, after which he became the first CO of NH Beaufort (April 1949 to June 1950). NHB was the second Naval Hospital to be commissioned after WWII.



While he was CO at NHB, his daughter Pam worked in the recreational library, located in what is now Healthcare Business. The doorway barely visible above her head in the photo is the rightmost entrance to the lobby of the auditorium. There is a photo in the Command wing of personnel sitting at the soda fountain in what is now HR.

After his CO tour at NHB, he was again assigned to BUMED. He retired there in July of 1953, but continued to serve as the Navy Medical News Letter Liaison Officer until the late 1950's. When he left BUMED he and his wife Lavinia retired to Carmel, California.

He passed away in Bethesda, Maryland at age 89, and is buried with his wife in Arlington National Cemetery (Section 33 Site 3270).